

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1-64. (Canceled)

5 65. (Currently Amended) A bicycle fork, comprising:
 a compression fluid chamber configured to decrease in volume during at
 least a portion of the compression of said fork;
 a lock-out valve, said lock-out valve in fluid communication with said
 compression fluid chamber, and having at least two positions; wherein:
10 in a first position, fluid flow from said compression fluid chamber is
 substantially unrestricted by said lock-out valve, and
 in a second position, fluid flow from said compression fluid chamber
 is at least partially blocked by said lock-out valve;
 a first external externally disposed on said fork, adjuster permitting
15 external adjustment of said lock-out valve between at least said two positions;
 a blow-off valve associated with said compression fluid chamber, said blow-off
 valve allowing flow from said compression fluid chamber in response to the pressure in
 said chamber being equal to or greater than a threshold pressure during compression of
 said fork; and
20 a second external externally disposed on said fork adjuster, said second
 external adjuster permitting external adjustment of said threshold pressure;
 whereby adjustments to said threshold pressure may be made without
 tools.

25 66. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a bicycle fork having lock-out
 and blow-off features, including the step of adjusting a threshold pressure at which said
 blow-off feature operates during compression of said fork, said adjustment step being
 performed externally of said fork without tools.

67. (Currently Amended) A method of making a bicycle fork, including the steps

of:

- a) providing said fork with a lock-out valve;
- b) providing said fork with a blow-off valve having a threshold pressure during compression of said fork at which said blow-off valve opens and allows fluid flow there through;
- c) providing said fork with the ability for its user to make tool-less adjustments of said threshold pressure externally of said fork.

10 68. (Currently Amended) A bicycle fork, comprising:

first and second telescopingly engaged tubes configured to move closer together during compression of said fork;

15 an adjustable lock-out valve, said lock-out valve having a plurality of operator-selectable positions, one of said operator-selectable positions of said lock-out valve at least substantially inhibiting said first and second tubes from moving closer together when subjected to a range of compressive forces;

20 a manually adjustable blow-off valve capable of tool-less adjustment externally of said fork, said blow-off valve allowing said first and second tubes to move closer together in response to a pressure imparted on said valve during compression of said fork being equal to or greater than a operator-selectable threshold pressure when said lock-out valve is in its substantially inhibiting movement position; said threshold pressure resulting from a force having a magnitude exceeding said range of compressive forces.

25 69. – 71. (Cancelled).

72. (Currently Amended) A bicycle fork, comprising:

first and second tubes configured to move closer together during the compression of said fork;

30 a manually adjustable lock-out valve, said lock-out valve having a plurality of operator selectable positions, one of said operator-selectable positions of said

lock-out valve at least substantially inhibiting said first and second tubes from moving closer together when subjected to a range of compressive forces;

5 a manually adjustable blow-off valve capable of tool-less adjustment externally of said fork, said blow-off valve having a plurality of operator-selectable positions, each of said operator-selectable positions of said blow-off valve altering the magnitude of the force that must be imparted on said fork during compression of said fork for said first and second tubes to move closer together when said lock-out valve is in its substantially inhibiting movement position.

10 73. – 74. (Cancelled).

75. (New) A bicycle fork, comprising:

15 a compression fluid chamber configured to decrease in volume during at least a portion of the compression of said fork;

15 a lock-out valve, said lock-out valve in fluid communication with said compression fluid chamber, and having at least two positions; wherein:

20 in a first position, fluid flow from said compression fluid chamber is substantially unrestricted by said lock-out valve, and

20 in a second position, fluid flow from said compression fluid chamber is at least partially blocked by said lock-out valve;

25 a first external adjuster permitting external adjustment of said lock-out valve between at least said two positions;

25 a blow-off valve associated with said compression fluid chamber, said blow-off valve allowing flow from said compression fluid chamber in response to the pressure in said chamber being equal to or greater than a threshold pressure during compression of said fork; and

30 a second external adjuster, said second external adjuster permitting external adjustment of said threshold pressure;

30 whereby adjustments to said threshold pressure may be made without tools.

76. (New) A method of operating a bicycle fork having lock-out and blow-off features, including the step of adjusting a threshold pressure at which said blow-off feature operates during compression of said fork, said adjustment step being performed without tools.

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77. (New) A method of making a bicycle fork, including the steps of:

a) providing said fork with a lock-out valve;

b) providing said fork with a blow-off valve having a threshold pressure at which said blow-off valve opens and allows fluid flow there through during compression of said fork;

c) providing said fork with the ability for its user to make tool-less adjustments of said threshold pressure.

78. (New) A bicycle fork, comprising:

a compression fluid chamber;

15 an adjustable lock-out feature, said adjustable lock-out feature in fluid communication with said compression fluid chamber;

a first external adjuster permitting external adjustment of said lock-out feature to vary the degree to which said lock-out feature allows fluid flow from said compression chamber;

20 a blow-off feature associated with said compression fluid chamber, said blow-off feature allowing fluid flow from said compression fluid chamber when fluid pressure in said compression fluid chamber is equal to or greater than a threshold pressure; and
a second external adjuster permitting external adjustment of the threshold pressure required to allow fluid flow through said blow-off feature;

25 wherein external adjustments made by said second external adjuster and said first external adjuster have no effect on each other.

79. (New) The bicycle fork of claim 78, wherein said lock-out feature and said blow-off feature comprise a lock-out valve and a blow-off valve, respectively.

5 80. (New) A bicycle fork, comprising:

a compression fluid chamber containing damping fluid;
an adjustable lock-out feature, said adjustable lock-out feature in fluid communication with said compression fluid chamber;
a first external adjuster permitting external adjustment of said lock-out feature to
10 vary the degree to which said lock-out feature allows said damping fluid to flow from
said compression chamber;

15 a blow-off feature associated with said compression fluid chamber, said blow-off feature allowing said damping fluid to flow from said compression fluid chamber when fluid pressure in said compression fluid chamber is equal to or greater than a threshold pressure; and

a second external adjuster permitting external adjustment of the threshold pressure required to allow said damping fluid to flow through said blow-off feature;

wherein external adjustments made by said second external adjuster and said first external adjuster have no effect on each other.

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81. (New) The bicycle fork of claim 80, wherein said lock-out feature and said blow-off feature comprise a lock-out valve and a blow-off valve, respectively.

82. (New) A method of operating a bicycle fork having user operable lock-out and user adjustable blow-off features, said method comprising the step of adjusting a threshold pressure at which said blow-off feature operates, said adjustment step being performed independently of operation of said lock-out feature.

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83. (New) A method of operating a bicycle fork having user operable lock-out and user adjustable blow-off features and containing a damping fluid, said method comprising the step of adjusting a threshold pressure that said damping fluid must be subjected to before said blow-off feature operates, said adjustment step being 10 performed independently of operation of said lock-out feature.

84. (New) A method of making a bicycle fork, comprising the steps of:

a) providing said fork with a user operable lock-out feature;

b) providing said fork with a user adjustable blow-off feature having an

15 adjustable threshold pressure at which said blow-off feature opens and allows fluid flow therethrough;

c) providing said fork with the ability for its user to make adjustments to said threshold pressure independently of user operation of said lock-out feature.

20 85. (New) The method of claim 84, wherein said steps of providing said fork with lock-out and blow-off features comprises providing said fork with a lock-out valve and a blow-off valve, respectively.

86. (New) The method of claim 85, further comprising the step of allowing adjustments made to said lock-out valve and said blow-off valve have no effect on each other.

5 87. (New) A method of making a bicycle fork, comprising the steps of:

a) providing said fork with a damping fluid;

b) providing said fork with a user operable lock-out feature;

c) providing said fork with a user adjustable blow-off feature having an

adjustable threshold pressure that said damping fluid must be subjected to before said

10 said blow-off feature opens and allows said fluid to flow therethrough;

d) providing said fork with the ability for its user to make adjustments to said threshold pressure independently of user operation of said lock-out feature.

88. (New) The method of claim 87, wherein said steps of providing said fork
15 with lock-out and blow-off features comprises providing said fork with a lock-out valve
and a blow-off valve, respectively.

89. (New) The method of claim 88, further comprising the step of allowing
adjustments made to said lock-out valve and said blow-off valve have no effect on each
20 other.

90. (New) A bicycle fork, comprising:

first and second telescopingly engaged tubes configures to move closer together
during compression of said fork;

an adjustable lock-out feature, said lock-out feature having a plurality of operator-selectable positions, a first of said operator-selectable positions of said lock-out feature substantially inhibiting said first and second tubes from moving closer together;

a manually adjustable blow-off feature comprising means for adjustment,

5 independently of any adjustment to said lock-out feature, of an operator-selectable threshold pressure controlling activation of said blow-off feature for allowing said first and second tubes to move closer together in response to a pressure on said blow-off feature equal to or greater than said threshold pressure, even when said lock-out feature is in its first position.

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91. (New) A bicycle fork, comprising:

first and second telescopingly engaged tubes configured to move closer together during compression of said fork;

a damping fluid;

15 an adjustable lock-out feature, said lock-out feature having a plurality of operator-selectable positions, a first of said operator-selectable positions of said lock-out feature substantially inhibiting said first and second tubes from moving closer together;

a manually adjustable blow-off feature, said blow-off feature independently

20 adjustable relative to said lock-out feature and said blow-off feature allowing said first and second tubes to move closer together in response to a pressure on said damping fluid being equal to or greater than an operator-selectable threshold pressure even when said lock-out feature is in its first position.

92. (New) A bicycle fork, comprising:

first and second tubes configured to move closer together during the compression of said fork;

5 a manually adjustable lock-out feature, said lock-out feature having a plurality of operator selectable positions, a first of said operator-selectable positions of said lock-out feature substantially inhibiting said first and second tubes from moving closer together;

a manually adjustable blow-off feature comprising means for adjustment,

10 independently of any adjustment to said lock-out feature, of said blow-off feature and having a plurality of operator-selectable positions, each of said operator-selectable positions of said blow-off feature altering the magnitude of the force that must be imparted on said fork for said first and second tubes to move closer together at a given velocity even when said lock-out feature is in its first position.

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93. (New) A method of making a bicycle fork, including the steps of:

a) providing said fork with a lock-out valve;

b) providing said lock-out valve with a first external adjuster;

c) providing said fork with a blow-off valve having a threshold

20 pressure at which said blow-off valve opens and allows fluid flow there through during compression of said fork;

d) providing said fork with the ability for its user to make tool-less adjustments of said threshold pressure; and

e) wherein said step of providing said fork with the ability for its user to make tool-less adjustments of said threshold pressure is performed by providing said blow-off valve with a second external adjuster.